

In response to the Office Action of April 18, 2003, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

- 5           1.     (Cancelled)
2.     (Amended)   The process according to claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein the carrier tray is fabricated of a flexible plastic.
- 10          3.     (New) A process for providing a meal of a home meal replacement as herein defined, comprising:
- (i)    providing a carrier tray for the meal of the home meal replacement to be served, the carrier tray including a first
- 15                   surface portion having a size and a shape for receiving the meal thereon,
- (ii)   introducing the meal into the carrier tray so that a second surface portion of the meal conforms to the size and the
- 20                   shape of the first surface portion, and subjecting the meal to conditions that inhibit microorganism growth and
- contamination of the meal, the meal consisting of one or more foods that are introduced into the carrier tray at
- desired positions to simulate the look of a gourmet meal, the meal being presented in the carrier tray in an upright,
- 25                   ready to eat, fashion;
- (iii)   freezing the meal in the carrier tray to a temperature that enables the meal to be cold stored as a frozen meal until

the meal is ready to be served, the size and the shape of the second surface portion of the meal thereby being preserved.

- 5 (iv) providing a serving dish for the carrier tray wherein the serving dish includes a third surface portion of a size and a shape that corresponds substantially to that of the first surface portion of the carrier tray;
- 10 (v) removing the frozen meal from the carrier tray and transferring it into the serving dish so that the second surface portion of the meal fits flushly against the third surface portion of the serving dish, the meal being presented in the serving dish in an upright, ready to eat, fashion such that the look of a gourmet meal as prepared on the carrier tray is maintained, and
- 15 (vi) heating or thawing the meal in the serving dish to edible temperature for serving and consumption.